

Louisiana - 1st District

Bob Livingston (R)

Of New Orleans — Elected 1977

Born: April 30, 1943, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Education: Tulane U., B.A. 1967, J.D. 1968.
Military Career: Navy, 1961-63.
Occupation: Lawyer.
Family: Wife, Bonnie Robichaux; four children.
Religion: Episcopalian.
Political Career: Republican nominee for U.S. House, 1976.
Capitol Office: 306 Cannon Bldg. 20515; 225-3015.



In Washington: After several years of looking after Louisiana water projects and focusing on the ethical conduct of colleagues, Livingston turned his gaze toward world affairs in the 97th Congress.

In 1981 he became a member of the Appropriations subcommittee handling foreign aid. This seemed an unusual choice since, as he later admitted, he had "never been a supporter of foreign aid." Yet with a Republican in the White House, he quickly became convinced of the need for aid as an instrument of foreign policy.

One of several Americans tapped to observe the 1982 elections in El Salvador, Livingston left more convinced than ever of the need for American involvement in that country. "If we in the United States subsequently listen to those who would have us pull out altogether," Livingston said when he returned, "... then we would be doing a great disservice to the people of El Salvador and to ourselves."

Generally, Livingston has supported the foreign aid mix endorsed by President Reagan. Like Reagan, he prefers a tilt toward military aid, but has been willing to accept some economic spending as well. He was one of only three Republicans on his subcommittee to back Reagan's 1981 request for \$850 million for the International Development Association, an arm of the World Bank that gives loans to the poorest nations. In 1982 he was on the losing end when his subcommittee voted to deny Reagan \$301.5 million he wanted in additional military aid.

On his other subcommittee, Labor and Health and Human Services, Livingston has followed a more traditional cost-cutting line, at least for projects that do not benefit Louisiana. In the winter of 1982, when states were complaining that they had exhausted their low-income energy assistance funds, he opposed the

additional \$123 million the subcommittee wanted to give, arguing that states could transfer money from social services block grants if they were running out.

During the 96th Congress, Livingston spent most of his time on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

He took a quiet interest in the details of the numerous ethics cases that came up during the Congress, often asking factual questions at the panel's open hearings. But he proved one of the harsher members of the committee, arguing strongly for the expulsion of Pennsylvania Democrat Michael "Ozzie" Myers in an Abscam bribery case and for censure of Charles H. Wilson, the California Democrat accused of several kickback charges.

Livingston also spent two terms on a pair of committees more important to his district, Public Works and Merchant Marine.

On the Public Works Water Resources Subcommittee, he had an opportunity to look out for the flood control interests of his frequently threatened lowland district. On Merchant Marine, he voted the interests of his local fishing industry. He supported a resolution to increase the tariff on imported shrimp.

At the start of the 97th Congress, Livingston left both Public Works and Merchant Marine for Appropriations.

At Home: The 1st District did not come close to electing a Republican to the House for a century after Reconstruction, but now that it has one, it seems quite satisfied. Livingston has had no difficulty holding the seat he won in a 1977 special election. Most of his constituents accept him as a logical replacement for his famous predecessor, Democrat F. Edward Hebert.

A prosperous New Orleans lawyer, former assistant U.S. attorney and veteran party

Bob Livingston, R-La.

Louisiana 1

Southeast — New Orleans

New Orleans casts more than 60 percent of the 1st District vote. While the district has some of the fashionable neighborhoods along Lake Pontchartrain and around Loyola, Tulane and Xavier universities, it includes few of the city's tourist spots; most of the district's New Orleans portion is in middle- to lower-income neighborhoods.

Some of this territory is in the northern and eastern parts of the city; the rest is along the west bank of the Mississippi River in a section known as Algiers. These are ethnic communities, "marble cake" mixtures of Italians, Irish, Cubans and the largest number of Hondurans outside Central America. St. Tammany Parish, with just over 20 percent of the district's population, is a booming suburban haven. Once an isolated vacation area for residents escaping the heat and humidity of New Orleans, it has become a popular home for New Orleans oil executives.

During the last decade St. Tammany showed a 74 percent population increase, the largest of any parish in the state. Many of the newcomers are transplants from the East and Midwest who have maintained Republican voting habits. St. Tammany gave Ronald Reagan 63.7 percent of the vote in the 1980 presidential contest, his second

best showing in Louisiana.

Down river is the low, flat marshland of Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes. For generations Plaquemines has been a world of its own, ruled with an iron hand by segregationist Leander Perez until his death in 1969. Reflecting Perez' wishes, Plaquemines cast more than 75 percent of its presidential ballots for Dixiecrat Strom Thurmond in 1948, Barry Goldwater in 1964 and George C. Wallace in 1968. But Perez' descendants have not matched his influence; they played only a minor role in the 1980 campaign. Reagan carried the parish with 54 percent of the vote.

Lying closer to New Orleans, St. Bernard has a growing blue-collar population; many of its residents work in large Kaiser Aluminum and Tenneco plants. The blue-collar element often votes Democratic in closely contested statewide races. Jimmy Carter carried the parish narrowly in his 1976 presidential bid, although Reagan won it in 1980 with 60 percent of the vote.

Population: 524,961. White 357,946 (68%), Black 154,454 (29%), Asian and Pacific Islander 7,474 (1%). Spanish origin 20,693 (4%). 18 and over 367,614 (70%), 65 and over 50,290 (10%). Median age: 29.

worker, Livingston made his first bid for Congress in 1976, when Hebert stepped down. But he lost narrowly to a labor-backed Democrat, state Rep. Richard A. Tonry. The result was due in part to the independent conservative candidacy of former Democratic Rep. John R. Rarick, who drew nearly 10 percent of the vote.

Livingston did not have to wait long, however, for a second try. Tonry's 1976 primary opponent succeeded in pressing a vote fraud case against him, and Tonry resigned from the House in May 1977. He sought vindication in a second Democratic primary that June, but lost to state Rep. Ron Faucheux. Tonry subsequently pleaded guilty to several violations of federal campaign finance law and was sent to prison.

Livingston was ready to run again as soon as Tonry resigned. He mounted a well-financed campaign against Faucheux that drew signifi-

cant blue-collar support as well as backing from more traditional GOP voters in white-collar areas. Spending more than \$500,000, Livingston launched an advertising blitz that showed him in his earlier job as a welder and as a devoted family man (in contrast to Faucheux, a young bachelor).

The Republican did not stress his party ties in the traditionally Democratic district. Instead he emphasized his background in law enforcement and claimed that he was in the conservative mainstream that had elected Hebert to Congress for 36 years.

With organized labor refusing to support Faucheux, Livingston won easily. Since then, the Democrats have not run a formidable challenger against him.

The only threat to his House career was posed in 1981 by the Democratic Legislature, which passed a redistricting bill that would

Bob Livingston, R-La.

have forced Livingston to run in a substantially changed district that included large blue-collar sections of Jefferson Parish. When Republican

Gov. David C. Treen threatened to veto the plan, the Legislature backed off and gave Livingston a district in which he could win easily.

Committees

Appropriations (16th of 21 Republicans)
Foreign Operations; Military Construction.

Elections**1982 Primary***

Bob Livingston (R)	76,410	(86%)
Murphy Green (I)	6,660	(8%)
Suzanne Weiss (I)	6,026	(7%)

1980 Primary*

Bob Livingston (R)	81,777	(86%)
Michael Musmeci Sr. (D)	8,277	(9%)

* In Louisiana the primary is open to candidates of all parties. If a candidate wins 50% or more of the vote in the primary no general election is held.

Previous Winning Percentages: 1978 (86%) 1977* (51%)
* Special Election.

District Vote For President

1980		1978	
D	79,279 (42%)	D	79,056 (50%)
R	103,597 (55%)	R	75,879 (48%)
I	4,074 (2%)		

Campaign Finance

	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1982			
Livingston (R)	\$242,558	\$41,807 (17%)	\$134,169
1980			
Livingston (R)	\$249,967	\$54,375 (22%)	\$138,724

Voting Studies

Year	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
	S	O	S	O	S	O
1982	79	14	76	20	84	11
1981	76	21	71	20	76	17
1980	41	51	72	15	81	7
1979	23	72	80	16	90	5
1978	30	67	82	11	88	5
1977	42	53†	80	10†	87	4†

S = Support

O = Opposition

† Not eligible for all recorded votes

Key Votes

Reagan budget proposal (1981)	Y
Legal services reauthorization (1981)	X
Disapprove sale of AWACs planes to Saudi Arabia (1981)	Y
Index income taxes (1981)	Y
Subsidize home mortgage rates (1982)	?
Amend Constitution to require balanced budget (1982)	Y
Delete MX funding (1982)	N
Retain existing cap on congressional salaries (1982)	N
Adopt nuclear freeze (1983)	N

Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACA	AFL-CIO	CCUS
1982	5	100	5	82
1981	20	62	27	84
1980	11	83	5	84
1979	11	83	10	84
1978	10	92	15	82
1977	0	78	29	89